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Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 INR-07 SS-15 SP-02 L-03

AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /054 W
---------- 083591
R 290952Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1687
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO CINCPAC
JCS WASHDC
CSAF WASHDC
CSA WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
CMC WASHDC
CINCPACREPPHIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1531

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, RP
SUBJECT: FY 1977 MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: STATE 17013

1. INFORMATION REQUESTED IN PARA 6 OF REFTEL IS PRO-
VIDED AS FOLLOWS (KEYED TO LETTERED SUB-PARAGRAPHS)

A. THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WILL "ACCEPT AND CON-
SUMATE" THE $20.0 MILLION FMS CREDIT PROPOSED FOR FY 77.

B. MAJOR ITEMS TO BE PROCURED IN PRIORITY ORDER AS
DETERMINED BY JUSMAG AND THE EMBASSY:

(1) ONE C-130 AIRCRAFT
(2) FOUR F-5E AIRCRAFT (PLUS CSP, AGE AND OTHER
SUPPORT)
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(3) FOURTEEN M-113 (APC'S)

C. PROVIDING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES WITH $20.0 MILLION FMSCR IN FY 1977 WOULD SUPPORT THE US-APPROVED AFP OJBECTIVE OF ACQURING REPLACEMENTS FOR AGING AIRCRAFT NOW IN PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE INVENTORY. THE APC'S WILL PROVIDE THE PHILIPPINE ARMY WITH IMPROVED MOBILITY; ANOTHER U.S.-APPROVED AFP OBJECTIVE.

D. & E. THE FMS CREDIT PROGRAM COMPLEMENTS THE GRANT MATERIEL AND GRANT TRAINING PROGRAM.

F. U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THE PHILIPPINES PLAYS AN ESSENTIAL ROLE IN PRESERVING ACCESS TO THE MILITARY FACILITIES WE USE HERE. WHILE GRANT AID IS THE MOST IM-PORTANT ELEMENT IN THE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE, FMS CREDIT PROVIDES A USEFUL SUPPLEMENT.

G. THE CREDIT SALE WILL NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE REGIONAL ARMS BALANCE OR CONTRIBUTE TO AN ARMS RACE.

H. THERE IS A DEMONSTABLE NEED FOR MILITARY CREDIT ASSISTANCE TO FILL THE GAP BETWEEN WHAT IS PROVIDED BY U.S. GRANT AID AND WHAT IS A REALISTIC AND DESIRED EQUIPMENT LEVEL FOR THE AFP. THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE HAS AGING TRANSPORT (C-47/C-123) AND AIR DEFENSE AIRCRAFT (F-86/F5A) WHICH ARE RAPIDLY BECOMING INADEQUATE TO SUPPORT THE ROLES AND OPERATIONS OF THE AFP. THE ACQUISITION OF C-130 AND F5E AIRCRAFT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE AIRLIFT AND AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES OF THE AFP. IN THE SAME VIEN, THE ACQUISITION OF ACP'S WILL ENHANCE GROUND MOBILITY IN THE PHILIPPINE ARMY.

I. THE PROPOSED CREDIT IS NOT OF THE MAGNITUDE THAT WOULD CAUSE AN EXCESSIVE REPAYMENT BURDEN ON FUTURE YEAR BUDGETS.

J. THERE ARE NO KNOWN ARMS PURCHASES THAT THE COUNTRY IS MAKING FOR CASH OR CREDIT FROM U.S. OR THIRD COUNTRIES WHICH ARE RELEVANT TO EXTENSION OF PROPOSED FY 77 CREDIT.
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